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THE MARCH OF PROGRESS



SOME one said that "we cannot stop the march of progress", meaning to imply that mergers of big interests, machinery, were milestones or monuments to Progress; and that these

were the Pillars of our Civilization.

One does not need a good memory to recall the alibis to excuse mergers, in which hundreds of men, old employees and executives, were told that overhead must go; expenses must come down, only to find that with this elimination of operating expenses, the merged interests expanded, or inflated their capitalization, issuing shares to such an excess that their obligations were increased a 100% by way of dividend-bearing coupons, or dividends which could never be paid out of the earning power of the Utilities so merged.

Machines replaced men and while increasing production, decreased the market for which they produced, by taking away from the replaced men the bits of paper, silver or gold, which they tendered in exchange for what the Machine turned out by way of clothing, food, or luxuries. Before the crash of that fatal November of 1929 we were listening to Robots, machines made by men, who replaced men as salesmen; and if we had not been engulfed in an Economic Flood, these Robots would have been multiplied upon the face of the earth; and destroyed that Soul, that individuality in men which makes them and will always make them greater than any Robot or Machine which the mind of man can invent.

Machine management of theatres, machine-made pictures, machine-controlled public opinion, through machine-made editorials have almost wrecked one of the miracles, namely Motion Pictures, of this civilization.

Will we profit by our lesson, by our experiences, by witnessing the world's agonized effort to humanize the business of living? Will we realize the punishment of breaking divine laws,

in the words "by the sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy daily bread".

The world is "sweating" for daily bread in a world which boasts of bumper crops, of government treasuries wherein is deposited hundreds of millions of dollars worth of gold, the tape, or measure by which we have been accustomed to measure a nation's prosperity. When will we admit that the slate should be wiped clean and that we should endeavor to take what we have; and with that build up a new economic system?

THEATRES ANSWER THE CALL

YOU have heard of ministers answering a call, which means a transfer from one Church to another. This time theatres are answering the call, the call of their nation to co-operate by way of an organized effort in the direction of Relief for the Needy.

This call is more urgent than a call to Arms for a War which takes life, which devastates and destroys commodities and territories. This is a call to save body and soul, the body and the soul of thousands of adults and children, who are starving, who are without shelter, without clothing, who were wage-earners, but who have been turned adrift upon an Economic Ship without a rudder; and apparently without a Captain to steer it into a safe harbour. The canned fruit, vegetables, etc., which are being collected by Motion Picture Theatres in their Saturday morning matinees and at other performances is great work, join this army, exhibitors!



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

RECENTLY we heard, through the power of the press, that the former Kaiser of Germany had refused to see Harold Lloyd, the latter who had called upon the Kaiser, but that Princess Hermione, spouse of the former Emperor Wilhelm had received the Motion Picture comedian, and shown him through the palace at Doorn.

I have been trying to figure out why Harold Lloyd wanted the former Kaiser to receive him, because the former Kaiser is no longer a Royal personage, if Time makes or unmakes Kings.

If the former Kaiser is still an Emperor, regardless of his exile from Germany, and the fact that Germany has become a Republic, I still cannot find any reason for a 100% American desiring to consort with Kings, Emperors, or Royalty, since the Fathers of Confederation, in the United States declared themselves and their kind, free of any allegiance to any sovereignty which was termed Royal.

HAROLD LLOYD has had a following which not only admired his particular ability upon the screen, but his reputation as a private citizen. Notwithstanding, I cannot figure out why Lloyd was desirous of seeing the ex-Kaiser; and why the former Emperor of Germany should desire to meet Harold Lloyd. Anyway it's good mental gymnastics to endeavor to work it out; and if the former Emperor had received Harold Lloyd, in the words of Zasu Pitts, "It would not have been necessary for me to think about it".

Which reminds me that Zasu Pitts recently underwent a major operation for intestinal obstruction; and that our sincere good wishes are with Zasu Pitts for her complete recovery. Zasu is a personality, she has "It" even if "It" is wide-eyed, laconic, naively bored at you and me, at everybody.

Talking about "It", brings us right into Clara Bow's boudoir, the girl who gave "it" a new definition in the dictionary, that is if custom and usage gives words their definition.

Clara Bow's "It" was not the laconic kind, she appealed to Flaming Youth, male and female. And then something happened to Clara; and it was not Talking Pictures, it happened before Clara was forced to talk on the screen, it happened when Clara began to talk in public.

"ALL HER SAVAGE" is a "come-back" for Clara Bow which tells its story at the box-office. There is some talk going around about Clara's personal appearance and about her "talk". The news has even travelled to Canada. Fox gambled on Clara Bow's come-back and won her first

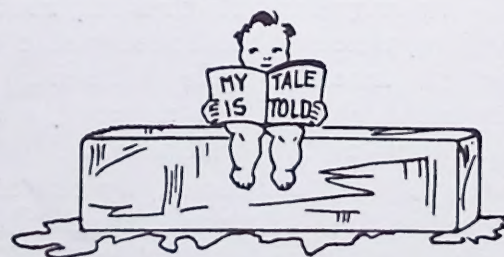
place and a blue-ribbon, how about utilizing some of the wisdom which Leo, the Lion, otherwise M-G-M utilizes in respect to Greta Garbo, who is the mysterious, silent woman to her great public, which thinks she has "It", plenty of "It", but who does not talk to her public, save through the Roar of Leo. Think it over! It has been written, "It is not that which goeth into a man's mouth which destroyeth him, but that which cometh out". As Joe Brown would say, "You said a mouthful!"

The Uniform Contract with its supplementary proposals, is reported now to have the approval of seven major producing and distributing companies. Universal and Fox recently voiced its acceptance. This leaves United Artists and Columbia still to be won over, with a hopeful outlook toward such a victory for the M.P.T.O.A.

The optional uniform contract appears to be closer to a solution of internal disturbances within the Industry than any other document which has been presented. It would be a happy change and a good omen to see this Industry arrive at a stage when it could run its business without the endless irritation between producer and consumer, which has been the inspiration for much of the legislation directed toward the control of this Industry and its exploitation.

Ned E. Depinet, Vice-President and General Manager of Distribution of RKO Pathe, has had his powers extended to take in the supervision of foreign sales. Mr. Depinet formerly took care of Domestic Sales, with Jules Levy as General Manager.

The new organization arrangement gives Mr. Depinet foreign sales, and as far as Canada is concerned we find in the new chart, Leo Devaney, General Manager of the Canadian district under the supervision of E. L. McEvoy, who in turn is in charge of the following offices and managers, S. H. Decker, Calgary; E. H. Wells, Montreal; Leon Watrous, St. John; W. S. Jones, Vancouver, and George F. Law, Winnipeg. RKO appear to have the right idea, organization of Man-Power, they are building for a future and a present of "Profits".



Ray Lewis—B.I.P. Action continues before Justice Raney, Supreme Court, Toronto, Monday, Dec. 12th

Observations



By The Editor

ONE of the big shows recently in Toronto was the personal appearance of Count Von Luckner, who played to nearly a full house, at Massey Hall, which seats over three thousand.

Mayor Stewart of Toronto did not give Luckner an official or unofficial welcome, because in the Mayor's opinion a man who boasts wittily of how he tricked the British Navy, is no hero in a British Dominion.

However, the press and public opinion being divided on the question of whether the War being officially over, was really over, created plenty of front page stuff; and the Count for close to two hours talked to an audience that evidently overlooked the War and enjoyed Count Luckner's one-man show.

* * * *

WATCHING Count Luckner's excellent stage presence, his manner of using his hands, his ease of delivery, one was inclined to believe that in the days gone-by, before the Count was Count Von Luckner, he might have had his taste for show business satisfied. Incidentally, he told enough upon the stage of Massey Hall to make a fascinating Moving Picture; and incidentally what a hit such a picture would make with Von Luckner as star, in all countries but the British Empire. We are excluding the British Empire because there is no more potent inspiration for hand-clapping in a British movie theatre than the appearance on the screen of the British Navy, be it sailor, admiral or ships; and listening to a brave man tell in breezy fashion how he made a fleet of British ships give chase, while he checked and double-checked across the face of the waters, incidentally sending many of these to Davy Jones' locker, although the Count states explosives and not men were his objective; and that no man lost his life through his sea-ventures, the sight of British ships turned up on their wrong end, or being made a fool of in all the dignity of their majestic trappings, may not strike Britishers as being as entertaining and humorous, as is the narrative of such adventures.

* * * *

SUCH thoughts bring us to the question of heroes and heroines, what is moral and what is unmoral and immoral.

* * * *

AT one time our claim was that Geography made morals; and as we consider this angle we are led to the question of Count Von Luckner, who must be considered a hero in Germany, in the United States; and a hero also to a great many Britishers, who look upon war not as an institution which guards a nation's honour, but a money-making enterprise which destroys human life, leaving as its compensation for such destruction the debtors and creditors of War Reparations.

* * * *

IT IS obvious then that Luckner's position as a hero is a matter of Geography, and it is likewise obvious that if we in the province of Ontario legislate to permit children under sixteen to attend Motion Picture Theatres and the Government in the Province of Quebec legislates to prevent children under sixteen from attending Motion Picture Theatres, that the question of what is right or wrong in respect to such attendance of chil-

dren to Motion Picture Theatres is one which must be decided upon geographically. If we live in Ontario it is right, if we live in Quebec it is wrong, in fact if we live in other parts of Canada, or in England, in the United States it is right.

* * * *

NOT until the theatre fire disaster in Montreal did the question of legislation in Quebec, in respect to children's admittance to theatres, present itself; and the supporters of the Act built their appeal upon an argument for the safety of children and the safeguarding of their morals was an added consideration. It is certain, that had not the tragedy occurred, neither public opinion, nor legislative support would have been given to such a measure.

Are we not justified then in presenting this argument to the Government, which is to reconsider this legislation in January, that if theatres have been made safe for grown-ups, they have also been made safe for children; and considering the record which theatres enjoy, in respect to fire risks, we must conclude that they are the safest of all public buildings. There are no laws which prohibit children from entering other public buildings; and when we point out the danger to the life of children in Sunday Schools, or assembly halls of city halls, or in other institutions, which are older than they should be; and which are permitted to remain open because of sentiment and not commonsense, then surely the angle of children's safety in theatres may justifiably be dismissed.

* * * *

NOW what of the angle of safeguarding the children's morals? Would it be improper to ask why the children in the province of Quebec are in need of having their morals more carefully guarded than the children in the Province of Ontario, or other provinces in our Dominion?

Are the children of Ontario and other provinces of the Dominion becoming immoral, or unmoral because they are permitted to attend Motion Picture theatres? Public opinion in these provinces would grow indignantly eloquent were anyone to intimate such a thing.

* * * *

CROSSING to England on one particular voyage, the writer was present when a Motion Picture, being exhibited in the dining-room of the ship, took fire. There was an experienced projectionist in charge of the portable booth; and perhaps only the writer, who was in Motion Pictures, sensed the danger of that continued blaze to all on board that ship. No one would, however, feel inclined to agitate against the presentation of Motion Pictures on Ocean Liners; and yet here is a grave need for some such agitation, when such projection has not the necessary safe-guarding accessories which one finds in licensed theatres.

* * * *

ALTHOUGH there was some agitation about the presentation of Motion Pictures in churches and Sunday schools, and there was some action taken by the City Police of Montreal in this respect, the charge against the ministers was dropped; and the public was reluctant to enter into the controversy because there was a feeling

(Continued on page 6)

Four Debators Junior Board of Trade leave British Film Question to Public after Debating over Radio

"Spotter" Loses Coat

The Motion Picture Operators' Union were holding a closed door meeting in the Labor Temple December 4th, when the caretaker, Jack Sutherland, breezing around, spotted what is termed "a spotter" listening in on the meeting by way of taking notes.

"You can't do that if you're not a union man," said Sutherland. "I belong to the union," declared the notetaker to the caretaker. "Go into the meeting," said the caretaker to the notetaker, whereupon he proceeded to gather up the notetaker's coat and hat and moved toward the door, only to be tripped up by the notetaker, who took to his heels, pursued by operators, who heard the commotion and gave chase. Moral, if you must be a Peeping Thomas, or a "Spotter", keep on your hat and coat so that if you have to run, you do not lose your property.

January Will See 70%

M-G-M Program Ready

The 1932-33 line-up of M-G-M will be 70% on the way to completion by January. Last week heralded the biggest production week of the past twelve months, with twelve new productions starting to work. Thirty-five features of the scheduled fifty for the season have been taken care of. "Night Life", "The Man on the Nile", "Turn About", "Peg O' My Heart", "Whistling in the Dark", "La Tendresse", "Men Must Fight", "Tarzan and His Mate", "Reunion in Vienna", "White Sister", "Clear All Wires" are among the twelve new productions. Six of these come from Broadway, having won for themselves that much coveted title of "Broadway Success", the latter quotation not so bad for a Motion Picture title on its own.

B. & F. Secure Local Screen

Talent for Eight One-Reelers

The B. & F. Circuit in Toronto, selected eight Toronto girls, from a group of forty-nine, who had contested for screen honours in a recent Movie Contest. Eight one-reel films were produced by the aid of portable photographic and sound equipment. Each of the girls appear in a reel and these will be shown over the B. & F. circuit. The company which started this bright idea might carry on by inviting the public to select the best. It would be necessary for the public to see all of the one-reelers in sending in their report. You know the old hokum which creates local interest and local pride, also a few extra shekels at the box-office.

RKO and "Roxy" Get

Exclusive Right to "Roxy"

By a court decision, RKO and "Roxy" Rothapfel, secure the exclusive right to the use of the name "Roxy", the new RKO theatre in Radio City. Harry G. Kosch, Roxy Theatres Corp. Receiver contested the right. The Special Master's Report to Federal Judge Francis G. Caffrey of the Southern District of New York establishes the claim of ownership by "Roxy" and RKO to the name "Roxy" and the Court ordered the discontinuance of the name in connection with any other theatre but the Radio City theatre. The RKO Roxy will open December 29th. Thus endeth another lesson.

Benita Hume, known in Canada to the followers of British pictures, and whose engagement recently to Jack Dunfee, the racing motorist, was announced, has been signed up for a long-term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. She will appear with Ramon Novarro in "Man of the Nile".

The Law in Ontario states that the National Anthem must be played at the conclusion of each performance. See Section 18 Cinema Act!

Observations

(Continued from page 5)

of respect and consideration given the Church and its Ministry. It would take a fire-tragedy, such as was experienced in the theatre in Montreal, to make the public forget the sacredness of the Church; and legislate against the exhibition of Motion Pictures in public buildings where there is not the fire-protection one finds in licensed theatres.

* * * *

IT may be that the pictures shown in these public institutions are of an educational character, selected specially for presentation to children, but we on the other hand, who constitute the public, cannot help but query the sincerity of the purpose to safeguard the life of children, when children are exposed to dangers, many times multiplied in the institutions in which they are permitted to witness Motion Pictures.

When we consider also that a great deal of the opposition to the attendance of children under sixteen to Motion Picture theatres was waged by organizations who are not opposed to children now attending institutions where pictures are shown, with the exception of Motion Picture theatres, we may be excused for our suspicion that such opinion may be, and has been in the process of being exploited for certain advantages to those who have organized for such advantage. Not all legislation is "like Caesar's wife above suspicion", because it is the offspring of a Government.

Calls From New York

"Hello Ray Lewis"

Eddie Golden spent the price of a call from New York to Toronto to tell Ray Lewis that he liked her speech in Milwaukee, back in the days when Independents were loud and strong on Independence. "I liked your speech so much that being an Independent I am intending to send you two pages of advertising on my company's product, 'Monogram Pictures'", said Eddie, whereupon Ray Lewis, talking at Eddie's expense, replied, "Come to Toronto, Eddie, I have always wanted to see Santa Claus".

George Bannister Called by Death

(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

George J. Bannister, 50 years of age, and well known in Winnipeg moving picture theatrical circles, died suddenly, Sunday, December 4, at his home in Winnipeg. Born in Toronto, Mr. Bannister came to Winnipeg 20 years ago, during which time he was connected with the Columbia Theatre, Main Street, as lessee and manager, until his retirement about four years ago. He was a life member of Doric Masonic Lodge, in Toronto.

In addition to his widow, Helen Bannister, Mr. Bannister is survived by his father, two brothers and three sisters, of Toronto.

Lyric Opens with Sound

The Lyric Theatre at The Pas, Manitoba, recently opened under the management of Sam Townson. The Lyric is fully equipped with the best in Sound Equipment it is reported, and will now present the best in pictures.

The Paramount Photo Studios at Rosthern, Sask., was gutted by fire during the absence of the owner, J. Gravenick, who had left for Saskatoon. There was no fire in the studio. The origin of the fire is unknown.



Show Business



"Rasputin and the Empress" Final Title New Barrymore Film

"Rasputin and the Empress" has been selected by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as final title for its production starring John, Ethel and Lionel Barrymore, formerly known as "Rasputin". This picture, which is now near completion on the coast, deals with the career of Russia's "Mad Monk", during the last decade of the Romanoff dynasty, with Richard Boleslavski the director. The cast includes Ralph Morgan in the role of the Czar, C. Henry Gordon, Tad Alexander, Diana Wynyard and Edward Arnold.

"The Mind Reader" Enters Production

First National announces that "The Mind Reader" entered production last Wednesday with Warren William and Constance Cummings heading the cast. Roy Del Ruth is directing "The Mind Reader" from the adaptation of Vivian Cosby's play by Wilson Mizner and Robert Lord. Allen Jenkins, Clarence Muse, Clara Blandick, Donald Dilloay and Robert Greig are cast in important roles in the picture, which concerns the psychic racket.

After a year on tour as headliner of a Fanchon and Marco revue, Betty Compson returned to Hollywood recently and immediately was signed by Carl Laemmle, Jr., for the only feminine role in "Destination Unknown".

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"Jade" New U.A. Film

Pulling an ace from his sleeve as he did in the case of "Africa Speaks", last season's hit, Walter Futter announced Tuesday that he has had Richard Halliburton, internationally famed author-adventurer, under contract for more than two years and that he is now putting the finishing touches on a picture in which Halliburton will be starred.

The picture, which was photographed in India, China and Thibet, is entitled "Jade" and will be released by United Artists. It is not a travel picture, as such, telling as it does a thrilling story of mystery, love and adventure, most of it occurring in the Secret Valleys and sacred lamaseries of inaccessible Thibet. But it does have the tang of travel to far places, and it also includes some of the most thrilling wild animal scenes ever brought to the screen.

Start "Crashing Broadway"

Rex Bell's next picture for Monogram is "Crashing Broadway", casting of which was completed today. Opposite Bell in the feminine lead is Doris Hill, supported by Charles King, George Hayes, Vane Calbert, Perry Murdock, Louis Sargent and Fred Burns. J. P. McCarthy is directing, from a story by Wellyn Totman.

New Pitts-Todd Comedy

Zasu Pitts and Thelma Tidd are portraying the roles of a couple of taxi dancers in their latest Hal Roach comedy. Sailors tackle Thelma, and ponderous bay-windowed gentlemen wrestle with Zasu. The comedy is entitled, "Asleep in the Feet".

Four New M-G-M

Four films have been definitely scheduled for release by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer during December, including "Strange Interlude", the special production which has played a number of roadshow dates throughout the country and which is now in its fourth month at the Astor Theatre, New York. The other releases are Wallace Beery's new starring picture, "Fast Life", a speedboat racing story, and a Ramon Novarro - Helen Hayes co-starring vehicle.

The new Wallace Beery film is "Flesh", adapted from an original story by Edmund Goulding.

Sea Writer at RKO Radio

Felix Reisenberg, famous writer of American sea classics arrived at the RKO Radio Studio this week. Reisenberg has written more than a score of stories and tales and has been engaged to do original work by David O. Selznick, executive vice-president in charge of all RKO Radio production.

Col. Joy, Joins Fox as Executive

Fox Film Corporation announced recently that Col. Jason S. Joy, Director of Studio Relations for the Association of Motion Picture Producers, since 1926, has joined Fox as executive assistant to Winfield R. Sheehan, Vice-President in charge of production.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has acquired motion picture rights to "Mortmain", the novel by Hugh Cecil Asterley which Sears Company published last April. No cast or director have yet been announced for the new property.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein—Second week for "Prosperity", Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture with Marie Dressler and Polly Moran.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley—"Maid of the Mountains", a B.I.P. picture, distributed through Empire Films.

IMPERIAL—Manager H. V. Knevels—First National picture, "You Said a Mouthful", with Joe E. Brown.

TIVOLI—Manager M. J. Doyle—"Chandu, the Magician", a Fox picture.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea—"Okay America" with Lew Ayres and Maureen O'Sullivan, a Universal picture.

Seven Theatres, Montreal, charged with giving Vaudeville Shows Sunday—Get Summons

HIT AFTER HIT!

BOX OFFICE CHAMPIONS!

HIT No. 1—**The Faithful Heart**

Starring HERBERT MARSHALL and EDNA BEST

HIT No. 2—**Jack's the Boy**

Starring JACK HULBERT and CECILY COURTNEIDGE

HIT No. 3—**The Frightened Lady**

Starring EMLYN WILLIAMS and GORDON HARKER

Three Releases to Date in---

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Some of Those Yet to Come:

MARRY ME—Starring Renate Muller,
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GOOD COMPANIONS

THERE GOES THE BRIDE

WHITE FACE—Edgar Wallace thriller.

LOVE ON WHEELS — Starring Jack
Hulbert

THE FLYING SQUAD

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SENSATION

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MAN OF ARAN

THE OPERA BALL

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